



News Release

RORC Welcomes New Director

The Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center (RORC) Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS) is pleased to welcome aboard our new Center Director, William C. Mann, OTR, PhD. Dr. Mann's expertise in tele-health and tele-homecare, as well as older driver assessment and rehabilitation, are a perfect fit with the primary focus of the RORC -- evaluating rehabilitation programs and interventions that result in optimal patient outcomes.

Dr. Mann's research interests are centered on promoting independence with technology, including driving and smart technology for persons with disabilities. He has been a member of the RORC's Focus 2 Workgroup since 2008, where he shared his passion for home monitoring and communications technologies and his extensive experience in rehabilitation and community-based programs. Under Dr. Mann's direction, RORC investigators will address issues important to veterans living in rural areas, including access to rehabilitation services.



William Mann, PhD, OTR/L

"It is of the greatest importance to provide evidence-based rehabilitation services for Veterans of past wars and for those returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Our RORC research will advance evidence-based rehabilitation practice," Mann said.

In addition to his leadership of the RORC, Dr. Mann will remain in his position as Distinguished Professor and Chair of Occupational Therapy at the University of Florida (UF) and will continue to direct the Rehabilitation Science Ph.D. Program. Dr. Mann served as the Principal Investigator for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Aging from 1991 to 2007 (funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research) and was instrumental in establishing the University of Florida Gator-Tech Smart House. He established the National Older Drivers Research and Training Center, and leads the Florida Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation, a coalition of research units in Gainesville at both the NF/SGVHS and UF.

Before joining the faculty of the University of Florida, Dr. Mann was a professor at the University at Buffalo for 25 years. He has authored more than 135 articles and book chapters on aging and independence, authored four books, and served as founder and co-editor of the journal Technology and Disability from 1990 to 2000. He has served as the Conference Chair for the 1999, 2003, 2006 and 2008 International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence (ICADI). Dr. Mann served on the boards of the American Society on Aging and the Florida Council on Aging. His work extends internationally to projects in Brazil and he is an honorary professor at the University of Sydney.



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